

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph 077, on page 21, lines 26-30 – Page 22, line 1 as follows:

In one embodiment, the mutation encodes for an alanine residue instead of a methionine residue, such as, for example at position 33 or 51 of the matrix protein (M). In another embodiment, the mutation encodes for the substitution of a ~~glycine~~ serine residue for a ~~serine~~ glycine residue, which may be, for example, at position 226. In another embodiment, the mutation encodes for the substitution of an ~~alanine~~ threonine residue for an ~~alanine~~ threonine residue, such as, for exmaple, at position 133.

Please amend paragraph 222, on page 61, lines 4-11 as follows:

[001] In order to identify which domains are involved in the M protein-induced cytopathic effects, several different M protein mutants were generated. Out of the six individual isolates obtained, all had the same mutations. The mutations resulted in the substitution of a methionine residue for an alanine residue at position 33 (SEQ ID NO: 1), and in the substitution of a methionine for an alanine residue at position 51 (SEQ ID NO: 2). Further substitutions included replacement of ~~an alanine~~ a threonine residue by a ~~threonine~~ an alanine residue at position 133 (SEQ ID NO: 3); and replacement of a ~~glycine~~ serine residue by a ~~serine~~ glycine residue at position 226 (SEQ ID NO: 4) (Figure 3).

Please insert the Sequence Listing attached hereto as Appendix A, after the Abstract.